

National Title I Distinguished School  
Fall-Hamilton Enhanced Option Elementary  
Davidson County Schools



Fall-Hamilton Enhanced Option School is an inner city, neighborhood school which lies within the heart of Nashville, Tennessee. Enhanced Option means increased academic achievement by providing an additional 20 instructional days in the summer, 15:1 teacher-pupil, and a gifted/talented teacher. Our mission is to create a safe and positive learning environment, foster self-motivation, and provide cooperative learning experiences for our children while they develop academic skills at or above grade level.

Our enrollment is 306 students, grades Pre-K through four. Eighty-six percent are economically disadvantaged, which qualifies our school to receive Title 1 funds. Parents and faculty elected to use Title 1 monies to support a Schoolwide Model. These funds are earmarked for improving instruction through additional classroom materials, professional development, tutoring services, parent involvement, and technology.

The keys to Fall-Hamilton's success begin with the foundation of our core curriculum, which embodies Metropolitan Nashville Public School Graduate 12-PreKindergarten Academic Standards that mirrors Tennessee and national standards in all subject areas. Each nine weeks, grade levels engage in curriculum mapping to determine specifics of how students will be engaged and share intervention strategies to address student weaknesses. Teachers have available an array of research-based strategies, such as Balanced Literacy Program, Language!, Building Vocabulary, Inclusion, PALS (Peer Assisted Learning Strategies), Technology, Critical Thinking (Bloom's Taxonomy), Hands-on Approach with Math, Science and Social Studies to address each child's needs. District assessments are given three times a year, measuring students' progress. Teachers use results to target problem areas and drive instruction. Students not reaching benchmarks qualify for additional services such as small-group instruction with the Reading Specialist or after school tutoring.

The partnerships we have with our parents, the community, and local universities are another key to our success. At Fall-Hamilton parents have many opportunities to be involved with their child's education throughout the year. Parent meetings arranged by our Home School and Title 1 Coordinators, inform parents about the rigorous curriculum, update academic and behavior performance, and suggest ways they can help at home. These meetings are beneficial for parents and teachers. The community supports our mission and vision statement by volunteering their services to help us accomplish our goals through our School Improvement Plan. These services include F.L.I.P. (Friends Learning in Pairs), Reading Partners, Love Helps, "I AM SOMEBODY", and Character Education. Local universities have utilized Fall-Hamilton to pilot

reading and math programs. Teachers' involvement through training in these programs has placed our school on the cutting edge of new strategies to help close the achievement gap.

Fall-Hamilton's teachers employ additional resources that contribute to student success. They include: Family Resource Center that provides family support and community outreach services, onsite counseling through Centerstone Mental Health Services, Jane McEvoy School-Based Health Program that provides medical services to students, families and community and a Home/School Coordinator who schedules parent activities.

Our dedicated staff uses all these keys to open the door to success. By building strong relationships with our students, their parents, and the community, we have made progress in our achievement goals.

National Title I Distinguished School  
Unity School  
Lincoln County Schools



Unity School was built in 1992 to consolidate two older schools in neighboring communities. These students, teachers, families, and community members came together to form one group, hence the name Unity. Our school zone consists of several small communities and encompasses approximately ninety miles. A strong sense of family exists at Unity School as we continue to grow together. The families and community members share a strong sense of loyalty to this area. Their support is evident throughout our school.

Unity is a Title I Targeted Assisted school with a free/reduced lunch rate of fifty percent. We currently serve grades pre-K through 8, with an enrollment of 404 students. Our faculty and staff consist of 32 professionals and 26 paraprofessionals. We are dedicated to educating all children in a safe, nurturing environment. Together we strive to prepare our students for continued academic success. It is our desire that Unity students become productive citizens who share our love for this community.

It is the mission of Unity school to provide opportunities for each student to learn skills, acquire knowledge, and develop character within a rich, diverse, and nurturing learning environment. Everyone pulls together to accomplish our mission. Teachers use methods and strategies gained from attending various research based professional development activities. Periodic assessments and screening tools are utilized in order to provide differentiated instruction at all levels. Administration uses report cards, progress reports, test data and teacher opinion to determine students in need. These students are given opportunities to catch up or improve grades through the use of our free after-school program funded through LEAPS. Additional student needs are met through programs such as: special education, Title I, speech, volunteer mentoring, after school tutoring, summer school, and peer tutoring. Intervention methods practiced at Unity include Voyager, Stepping Stones to Literacy, TFAP (Tennessee Formative Assessment Program) activities, and Harcourt math activities.

In order to build a strong foundation for literacy skills, Unity embraces the balanced reading approach set forth in the Reading First initiative. Professional development has played a large part in our preparation toward implementing this program. This training has provided teachers with additional tools to help meet a variety of needs in the classroom. Intervention is used daily to close the learning gaps for those in need. Title I services are available to qualifying students in grades Kindergarten through third. Students are served in the regular classroom as well as in the Title I classroom.

At Unity, we believe that the school and home should mesh together to mold our students into life-long learners. We work diligently to incorporate parent and family activities whenever possible. Each year we host an open house, several PTF meetings, four literacy nights, a parent/grandparent luncheon, awards days, and several other occasions to which family and community members are invited. This group effort leads us daily toward our vision that each child will experience the joys of learning, self-discovery, success, and acceptance; thereby building a community of individuals with a life-long desire to learn.